

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/665,539

Examiner

Mitra Aryanpour

Applicant(s)

BERGHASH ET AL

Art Unit

3711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 02 February 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-8 and 10.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

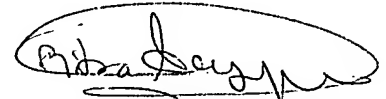
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
**MITRA ARYANPOUR**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Berchou on 29 March 2006.

The application has been amended in the claims as follows:

(Currently Amended) Claim 1: A hand shield adapted for use with a hockey stick, comprising:

a hockey stick;

a flexible shield portion having a convex outer surface, a substantially concave inner surface configured to shield all or part of a hand, and a first opening in said shield portion configured to accommodate a portion of said hockey stick that ~~is may be~~ passed therethrough; and

an interior grip portion comprising a proximal end portion connected to said shield portion, said interior grip portion extending away from the perimeter of said first opening said shield portion and configured so as to slidably embrace said hockey stick and adapted for gripping by all or part of a hand,

wherein said interior grip portion comprises a distal end portion which defines a second opening, and said hand shield is configured such that said hockey stick ~~is may be~~ passed through each of said first and second openings.

Art Unit: 3711

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3: The hand shield as set forth in claim 1 wherein said interior grip portion comprises a plurality of generally parallel flexible tabs.

Claim 4: The hand shield as set forth in claim 1 wherein said first opening is generally rectangular.

Claim 5: The hand shield as set forth in claim 1 wherein said first opening is configured so as to accommodate multiple cross-sectional configurations of said hockey stick.

Claim 6: The hand shield as set forth in claim 5 wherein said configurations are a rectangular cross-section, a polygonal cross-section, a circular cross-section and an oval cross-section.

(Currently Amended) Claim 7: The hand shield as set forth in claim 1 ~~adapted for use with a~~ wherein said hockey stick ~~having~~ has a fixed butt end, wherein the perimeter of said first opening is configured such that said hockey stick is ~~may be~~ passed through said opening.

Claim 8: The hand shield as set forth in claim 1 wherein the perimeter of said first opening is flexible.

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10: The hand shield as set forth in claim 1 wherein said hockey stick comprises a shaft and a blade.

NOTE: The above changes have been made to overcome informalities, in order to put this application in condition for allowance.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: claims 1, 3-8 and 10 are allowable over the prior art of record, because the prior art does not show or suggest the

Art Unit: 3711

combination of a hand shield for use with a hockey stick, wherein the hand shield includes a flexible convex outer surface and a concave inner surface, an interior grip portion having a proximal end connected to the shield portion and extending away from the shield portion and configured to slidably embrace the hockey stick, a first and second opening formed in the interior grip portion for receiving the hockey stick.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mitra Aryanpour whose telephone number is 571-272-4405. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Kim can be reached on 571-272-4463. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

29 March 2006

  
**MITRA ARYANPOUR**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**